



Family Promise® of Hawai`i

Building community, strengthening lives.

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Board of Directors

President

Jennifer Armstrong

April 19, 2016

Vice President

Ellary Kim

Dear City Council Members,

Vice President

Pokey Richardson

In the past few years, Hawaii has experienced an increase in the number of homeless families, especially on the island of Oahu. Hawaii has the highest rate of homelessness per capita among the fifty states. City sweeps of encampments, expansion of the sit-lie ban and lack of affordable housing have become a part of our everyday news. Service providers have ever increasing pressure to serve more clients with limited resources. To respond to this crisis we increased families served by 16% (from 2014 to 2015) and decreased our length of stay by 8%.

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Each year we provide housing and support services to approximately 230 parents and children experiencing homelessness. Last year, 100% of our regular program guests had at least one parent employed full-time and 80% of our families were successfully housed. Last year our average length of stay was 97 days. Since 2006, we have provided housing & support services to over 1,500 homeless parents and children (403 families). Grant in Aid funding would allow us to further our goal of putting an end to family homelessness. With almost 100 families on our waitlist, we continue to work tirelessly at helping families secure safe, stable housing. Financial literacy and employment are crucial to the long-term success of our guests. We believe that all people, especially children, have a fundamental right to shelter, food and education.

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Our program not only gives parents the tools they need to secure housing, but also the understanding of what it takes to stay permanently housed. Very few of our families have fallen back into homelessness. We follow our families for a minimum of one year and open educational opportunities to families who have graduated from our program. We are also here to serve as an ongoing resource to our families. This year a partnership with American Savings Bank will enhance our financial literacy classes, including classes geared towards graduated families to ensure long-term housing sustainability. Mahalo for your consideration of our GIA FY17 request to continue placing more of Oahu's children and their families into homes.

Executive Director

Mary Saunders

Sincerely,

Mary Saunders

Executive Director

Family Promise of Hawaii